

Congress by his commitment to the ocean and coasts and his work protecting and conserving their resources.

Early in Mr. SAXTON's career, he was successful in stopping the dumpsites responsible for the hypodermic needles and other medical waste that ended up on the beaches of New Jersey. Since then he continued to strive for clean water, clean air, coastal and wildlife protection, and the creation of open space.

We are grateful for Mr. SAXTON's thoughtful contributions on coastal and ocean issues before the Committee on Natural Resources, where he served as the Chairman of the subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans from 1994 to 2000 and as Vice Chairman from 2000 until 2006. Mr. SAXTON has also been a cochair of the House Oceans Caucus since the 109th Congress, and is an active member of the National Marine Sanctuary Caucus.

While it is impossible to list everything that Mr. SAXTON has done for the oceans, and we are humbled by the legacy of protecting the oceans that he has built. Mr. SAXTON has worked to boost Federal efforts to protect sensitive coastal lands, to promote sensible fisheries management as well as for fishermen's rights, to support exploration and research for discoveries and better understanding of our oceans. He sponsored the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1996, Clean Air Act of 1990, the Oceans Act of 2000, the Striped Bass Conservation Act in 2000.

Mr. SAXTON has been a leader on behalf of our National Wildlife Refuge System as a founding member of the National Wildlife Refuge Caucus and he authored the National Fish Hatchery System Volunteer Act of 2006, the National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Act of 2004, and the National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer and Community Partnership Enhancement Act of 1998, and the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Act, which recently passed the House.

We will miss the insight and the vision of Mr. SAXTON, the elder statesmen of the oceans in this House.

Madam Speaker, it has truly been an honor to serve alongside Mr. TOM ALLEN, Mr. WAYNE GILCHREST, and Mr. JIM SAXTON, who have provided invaluable service in the House of Representatives. We will continue to draw on their passion to continue the fight to protect and conserve our oceans and environments: our greatest treasures. They will truly be missed by everyone in this House and by all those who fight for the ocean and the environment; we ask all of our colleagues to join us in commending these members of Congress.

IN TRIBUTE TO PAT AND JERRY B. EPSTEIN

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to Pat and Jerry B. Epstein, who will be honored next month by the Saint John's Health Center Foundation with the prestigious Spirit of Saint John's Award.

My wife, Janice, and I have known Pat and Jerry for 25 years. Jerry is a hardworking, industrious, and charitable entrepreneur. Jerry and Pat's philanthropic endeavors have helped legions, myself included.

Pat and Jerry are being honored by Saint John's for their "vision, determination, and generosity of spirit" which has "advanced the mission of the Health Center."

Jerry has been a member of the Board of Trustees since 1975 and served as chairman in 2006 and 2007. His vast involvement has included leadership of the Development Oversight Committee, Building Committee, Leadership Giving, Jimmy Stewart Relay Marathon Committee and Chautauqua Inaugural Committee, Board of Counselors, The Endowment Legacy Project and the Campaign for Saint John's. He also served as member of the Executive, Finance, and Board Affairs committees.

Pat is one of the founding members of the Irene Dunne Guild, founded in 1987 to advance Saint John's mission. With more than 100 dedicated members, the Guild is a major support group of Saint John's Health Center. Guild members are goodwill ambassadors to the community and are committed to promoting the charitable objectives of Saint John's Health Center Foundation. Pat is also a committee member of the Women's Health Initiative and serves on several fundraising event committees. Pat has hosted countless dinners and special events in their home to introduce friends and neighbors to Saint John's.

Yet, this only touches on their involvement in the community.

A World War II veteran as both an enlisted man and commissioned officer, Jerry has been involved in the development, construction and management of real estate since 1952, and is probably best known as one of the founders of Marina Del Rey, CA. His many involvements include chairman of the Energy Commission for the Cities and County of Los Angeles from 1981–1984; service on the Los Angeles State Building Authority since 1983, for which he is currently president; service on the city of Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners from 1985–1990, including 2 years as president; service from 1991–1997 on the California Transportation Commission, including 2 years as chair; member of the Board of Directors of The Jewish Federation of Los Angeles; and member of the Board of Governors of the Southern California Division of NCCJ.

The list goes on, and even this impressive list does not do them justice, but the time grows short.

Madam Speaker, let me close by asking my colleagues to join Janice and me in thanking Jerry and Pat, his wife and partner of 60 years, for their many years of passionate service to our community and to join with Saint John's in honoring them for their "vision, determination, and generosity of spirit."

TRIBUTE TO LADIES OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC NATIONAL PRESIDENT BARBARA KNOPKE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Barbara Knopke, who elected to the office of National President of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic (LGAR) at their National Encampment in

Peabody, MA, and installed on August 9, 2008. President Knopke has been instrumental in the Department of Kansas maintaining its vitality.

Barb Knopke joined the LGAR in 2001. Recently, she, along with her daughter, Jennifer Knopke, were the driving force in organizing the new Eccelle Speaks Circle in Johnson County, KS, to which she now belongs. She held various positions within the Emma Edmond Circle and Department of Kansas. Barb has a great love for genealogy and has done extensive research on both her husband's and her heritage. She has direct lines going back to colonial times and has had direct ancestors who participated in all wars and conflicts except WWI and the Korean Conflict. Her great-great grandfather, George Washington Dittmore, served during the Civil War as a private in Company A, 13th Kansas Infantry, from 1862–65. Another great-great grandfather, Frederick Samuel Moser, also served as a private in Company C, 13th Kansas Infantry, during the same period.

President Knopke was born and bred on Long Island, NY, but has called Kansas her home since 1981. She states that, "I feel blessed with my wonderful husband, Jim, who is a member of the SUVCW, and our daughter, Jennifer, who is also a member of LGAR." She is also active in the Daughters of the American Revolution: "I am in awe of my heritage and what my ancestors achieved. I feel it is my duty to keep their memory and that of all patriots of this great country alive." Barb is the wife of Department of Kansas Junior Vice Department Commander Jim Knopke, PDC.

The Ladies of the G.A.R. is the oldest Women's hereditary organization in the United States. We are one of the five groups in the allied orders; the others being the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, The Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Women's Relief Corp and the Auxiliary to the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War. The Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic was chartered by the Congress of the United States under Public Law 86–47 in 1959, and remains dedicated to their mission today and we remain a national nonprofit organization deeply rooted in history. The Kansas Department was formed in 1885 and today we have a circle that celebrated its 113th birthday this July. There are very few that are older today.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to Barb Knopke, and I know that all Members of this House join with me in commending her for her election to this prestigious position.

TRIBUTE TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the members of Trinity Lutheran Church in State Center, Iowa, for their efforts in improving the lives of those affected by Hurricane Katrina in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

The day Katrina struck the Gulf of Mexico members of The Trinity Lutheran congregation